ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A photosensor system performs a sensitivity-adjusting reading operation with respect to a subject image, while simultaneously changing the image reading sensitivity stepwise for each of rows of a photosensor array or for specific rows thereof. The dynamic ranges of the lightness data on the read subject image are checked to see how they are distributed in relation to the image reading sensitivities. On the basis of this distribution, an image reading sensitivity that contributes to an optimal image reading state is extracted as an optimal image reading sensitivity.